

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 13-740V

Filed: June 20, 2014

\* \* \* \* \*

UNPUBLISHED

IVAN SIPOS, \*

Special Master Gowen

Petitioners, \*

v. \*

Joint Stipulation on Damages;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Injection  
Related Shoulder Injury; Brachial  
Neuritis.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH \*

AND HUMAN SERVICES, \*

Respondent. \*

\* \* \* \* \*

Christina Ciampolillo, Conway, Homer & Chin-Caplan, P.C., Boston, MA, for petitioner.  
Ann Martin, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

### **DECISION**<sup>1</sup>

On September 25, 2013, Ivan Sipos (“petitioner”) filed a petition pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.<sup>2</sup> 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2006). Mr. Sipos alleged that he received an influenza (“flu”) vaccination on October 2, 2010, and that he thereafter suffered from an injection related shoulder injury<sup>3</sup> which was caused in fact by the vaccination. Petition at 1.

---

<sup>1</sup> Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the undersigned’s action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this ruling on the website of the United States Court of Federal Claims, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction “of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” Vaccine Rule 18(b).

<sup>2</sup> The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is set forth in Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2006) (Vaccine Act or the Act). All citations in this decision to individual sections of the Vaccine Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa.

<sup>3</sup> Petitioner filed an amended petition on October 8, 2013, according to which petitioner’s alleged “injection related shoulder injury” included brachial neuritis, among other diagnoses. Amended Petition at 1.

On June 19, 2014, the parties filed a stipulation in which they agree that a decision should be entered awarding compensation.

Respondent denies that petitioner's flu vaccine caused his brachial neuritis or any other injury. Nevertheless, the parties agree to the joint stipulation, attached hereto as Appendix A. The undersigned finds the stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

The parties stipulated that petitioner shall receive the following compensation:

**A lump sum of \$115,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner.**

This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a).

Stipulation ¶ 8.

The undersigned approves the requested amount for petitioner's compensation. Accordingly, an award should be made consistent with the stipulation.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance with the terms of the parties' stipulation.<sup>4</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/ Thomas L. Gowen  
Thomas L. Gowen  
Special Master

---

<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

IVAN SIPOS,	)	
	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	No. 13-740V
v.	)	Special Master Gowen
	)	ECF
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND	)	
HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Petitioner, Ivan Sipos, filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 to 34 (the “Vaccine Program”). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to petitioner’s receipt of the influenza vaccine, which is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).
2. Petitioner received an influenza immunization on October 2, 2010.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that as a result of the influenza vaccine he suffered brachial neuritis and/or a similar condition. Petitioner further alleges that he experienced residual effects of his condition for more than six months.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on his behalf as a result of his injuries.
6. Respondent denies that petitioner’s influenza vaccine caused brachial neuritis, or any other injury.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payment:

A lump sum of \$115,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Petitioner and his attorney represent that compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), to the extent that payment has been made or can reasonably be expected to be made under any State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or by entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

11. Payment made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, and past unreimbursed expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in his individual capacity, and on behalf of his heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the influenza vaccination administered on October 2, 2010, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about September 25, 2013, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 13-740V.

14. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

15. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

16. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the influenza vaccine caused petitioner to develop brachial neuritis, or any other injury.

18. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

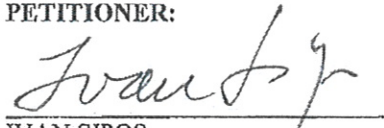
/

/

/

Respectfully submitted,

PETITIONER:

  
IVAN SIPOS

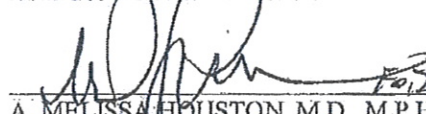
ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
PETITIONER:

*Christina Campbell*  
*Ronald C. Homer by Rule 83.1(c)(2)*  
RONALD C. HOMER  
Conway, Homer & Chin-Caplan, P.C  
16 Shawmut Street  
Boston, MA 02116  
(617) 695-1990

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

*Vincent J. Matanoski*  
VINCENT J. MATANOSKI  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-0146

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES:

  
A. MELISSA HOUSTON, M.D., M.P.H., FAAP  
Acting Director, Division of Vaccine Injury  
Compensation (DVIC)  
Acting Director, Countermeasures Injury  
Compensation Program (CICP)  
Healthcare Systems Bureau, U.S. Dept.  
of Health and Human Services  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Parklawn Building, Mail Stop 11C-26  
Rockville, MD 20857

ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
RESPONDENT:

*Ann D. Martin*  
ANN D. MARTIN  
Senior Trial Attorney  
Torts Branch, Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146, Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-0146  
(202) 307-1815

Dated: June 19, 2014